

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-03

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R 041424Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADMINISTRATIVE
AND OPERATIONAL PARTS OF ICEM BUDGET

REF: (A) GENEVA 2055, (B) TEL AVIV 1800, (C) STATE 58067,

(D) STATE 61341

1. APPRECIATE GREATLY ACCOUNT WORKING GROUP REFTEL.

2. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED YOUR MORE DETAILED REPORT, AT FIRST READING, WE ARE SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY PROPOSED 92.5 PERCENT LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS. UNLESS THIS LEVEL IS RAISED, WE ARE FEARFUL THAT 7.5 PERCENT GAP, NO MATTER HOW SLICED, WILL BE SOURCE OF MUCH TROUBLE FOR ICEM AND ITS MEMBERS IN ATTAINING FINANCIAL STABILITY, OF WHICH ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET IS CORNERSTONE. ADDITIONALLY, WE SEE NEW CATEGORIES "ADMINISTRATION OF LOAN FUND 2 PERCENT" AND "ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE ICEM'S REGULAR BUDGET 2.5 PERCENT" AS LIKELY TO CALL FOR FURTHER U.S. ADMINISTRATION.

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TIVE CONTRIBUTION. PROPOSED CONTRIBUTIONS OF ISRAEL (3 PER-

CENT) AND OF VENEZUELA (1 PERCENT) DISAPPOINTING AND LOWER THAN MIGHT REASONABLY BE EXPECTED.

3. ALTHOUGH WE ALAS HAVE NO MAGIC FORMULA FOR RAISING AS-

SESSMENTS TO APPROACH MORE NEARLY 100 PERCENT, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT ICEM, TO AVOID "LOCKING IN" PROPOSED CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN CIRCULATING WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS, VOICE ITS CONCERN THAT 92.5 LEVEL FALLS SHORT OF ENSURING STABILITY IN ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FINANCING, AND URGE MEMBERS ENDEAVOR TO CONVEY TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS BEFORE ICEM GOVERNING BODIES MEET IN MAY NECESSITY TO RAISE CONTRIBUTIONS BEYOND MINIMUM INCREASES SUGGESTED BY WORKING GROUP, POINTING OUT 1969 WORKING GROUP TOTAL REACHED 97.6 PERCENT.

4. BEARING IN MIND REFTELS (B), (C), AND (D), REQUEST MISSION CONVEY TO ISRAELI DELEGATE USG VIEW RE NEED TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND URGE ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE OF A 5 PERCENT ASSESSMENT RATHER THAN 3 PERCENT. KELLOGG MAKING SIMILAR APPROACH TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERE.

5. SINCE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS ARE CONSIDERED VOLUNTARY, DEPARTMENT INCLINED TO SEE ICEM PRESS VIGOROUSLY FOR HIGHER MANDATORY ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THOSE NOT CONTRIBUTING TO OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS, RATHER THAN UNDERTAKE LARGELY FUTILE EXERCISE FOR "UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION" IN OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS AS, FOR EXAMPLE VIS-A-VIS NORWAY.

6. INSTEAD OF REFERRING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXCOM AND COUNCIL IN MAY, WOULD IT BE PREFERABLE FOR WORKING GROUP TO REFER RECOMMENDATIONS IN FIRST INSTANCE TO SCBF MEETING FOR THEIR REVIEW BASED ON MEMBER RESPONSES IN INTERIM? WOULD A WORKING GROUP MEETING PRIOR TO SCBF BE USEFUL?

7. INITIATIVES RE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM REFTEL (A)
MOST USEFUL. RUSH

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